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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Investment, Technology
and Related Financial Issues
Expert Meeting on Existing Regional
and Multilateral Investment Agreements
and Their Development Dimensions
Geneva, 1 April 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Examination and review of existing regional and multilateral investment agreements and their development dimensions in pursuance of the mandate of paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development"

4. Adoption of the report.

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II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with UNCTAD practice, the Expert Meeting should elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Meeting is in section I above. A detailed programme will be available one week before the Meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM 2/EM.3/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 3 - Examination and review of existing regional and multilateral investment agreements and their development dimensions in pursuance of the mandate of paragraph 89 (b) of "A Partnership for Growth and Development"

3. The Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues, at its second session (29 September-3 October 1997), decided to convene an expert meeting on "examination and review of existing regional and multilateral investment agreements and their development dimensions in pursuance of the mandate of paragraph 89 (b) of 'A Partnership for Growth and Development'", (TD/B/44/14, para.51).

4. The Expert Meeting on Existing Regional and Multilateral Investment Agreements and their Development Dimensions is intended to continue the discussion on existing agreements on investment and their implications for development which was initiated last year. The first expert meeting dealing with this topic (28-30 May 1997) focused on bilateral investment treaties. (For the report of the Expert Meeting, see document TD/B/COM.2/5.) Regional and multilateral instruments dealing with investment offer a wider range of possibilities than do bilateral investment treaties for dealing with investment issues and addressing the various interests and needs of countries.

5. Given the complex mix of investment instruments and issues at the regional and multilateral levels and as a second step towards a broader discussion on issues relevant to a possible multilateral investment framework, especially its development dimension, it is suggested that the present Expert Meeting give special attention to the main objectives pursued by regional and multilateral investment instruments, as well as the scope of and key definitions in, regional and multilateral investment instruments.

6. To facilitate the discussions, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared an issues paper "Existing regional and multilateral agreements on investment and their relevance to a possible multilateral framework on investment: issues and questions - note by the UNCTAD secretariat". The paper is complemented by analytical background papers on "International arrangements for foreign investment: an overview" and "Key definitions in international investment agreements", which examine in greater detail some of the main issues and questions raised therein. The two background papers will be made available upon request. Additional background materials include the World Investment Report, 1996: Investment, Trade and International Policy Arrangements, (chapters V and VI); and International Investment Instruments: A Compendium.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/EM.3/2 Existing regional and multilateral agreements on investment and their relevance to a possible multilateral framework on investment: issues and questions - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Item 4 - Adoption of the report of the meeting

7. The Expert Meeting may wish to adopt agreed conclusions/recommendations at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairman after the conclusion of the Meeting.